What is claimed is:

1. A method of monitoring a factory automation product via a communications network, wherein the factory automation product includes identifiable information associated therewith, and the factory automation product is installed at an installation site having an installation site address, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining the installation site address and the identifiable information; and

associating the installation site address to the factory automation product based on the identifiable information.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifiable information comprises a MAC address assigned to the product.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifiable information comprises a serial number.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifiable information comprises a version number of the factory automation product.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifiable information comprises a product number.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the installation site address is an IP address of the installation site.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product comprises a control device.

8 The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product comprises a software

program.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product comprises a host computer.

10. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of searching a further site address based on the IP address in order to determine whether the product is also used at the further site address.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of comparing the product used at the installation site address and the product used at the further site address with a sales file for determining whether said products are legal copies.

12. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of searching for an additional unit of the product based on the MAC address.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein a user of the factory automation product is required to register the factory automation product over the communications network, and wherein the identifiable information is obtained through said registration.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein a user of the factory automation product is required to register the factory automation product over the communications network, and wherein the installation site address is obtained through said registration.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product is provided with a location identification device capable of providing a signal containing address-related information, said method further comprising the step of receiving the signal in order to obtain the installation site address.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product is provided with an embedded mechanism capable of providing a message indicative of the installation site address over the communications network, said method further comprising the step of obtaining the message in order to obtain the installation site address based on the obtained message.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product is provided with an embedded mechanism capable of providing a message indicative of the identifiable information over the communications network, said method further comprising the step of obtaining the message in order to obtain the identifiable information based on the obtained message.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product is connected to an equipment, said method further comprising the step of identifying the installation site address of the factory automation product based on the connected equipment.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the factory automation product is associated with a Uniform Resource Locator in the communication network, said method further comprising the step of identifying the installation site address of the factory automation product based on the Uniform Resource Locator.

20. A system for monitoring a factory automation product over a communications network, wherein the factory automation product includes identifiable information associated therewith, and wherein the factory automation product is installed at an installation site having an installation site address, said system comprising:

means for providing data indicative of the installation site address and the identifiable information; and

means, responsive to the data, for associating the installation site address to the factory automation product based on the provided identifiable information.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the providing means comprises a physical site locator.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein the providing means comprises an embedded device embedded in the factory automation device.

23. The system of claim 20, further comprising:

a database for storing the identifiable information, and

means, based on the stored identifiable information, for searching over the communications network for an additional unit of the factory automation product which is used in violation of a product license.

24. The system of claim 20, further comprising:

a database for storing the installation site address, and

means, based on the installation site address, for searching over the communications network for an additional unit of the factory automation product, which is used in violation of a product license.

25. The system of claim 20, wherein the communications network includes the Internet and the searching means includes a web search device.

26. The system of claim 20, further comprising means for notify a user of the factory automation product of safety or quality issues using the installation site address

27. The system of claim 20, wherein further information is provided when the factory automation product is registered, said associating means further associating the factory automation product based on the further information.

28. The system of claim 20, further comprising means for determining whether the factory automation product is used in violation of licenses based on the installation site address.